

Again, Democrats across the country are now talking about this issue, even doing campaign ads about this issue. The Republican spinmeisters are telling their colleagues to avoid the issue. So it is obvious to everyone who is on what side.

Republicans can run but can't hide from the horror they have created. Yesterday's vote was only one step, not the end, of our fight to protect women's rights. This issue will keep coming back up again and again and again between now and when voters go to the polls later this year.

UKRAINE

Madam President, on Ukraine, in the immediate future, Republicans need to work with Democrats to pass another round of critical emergency funding for the people of Ukraine. We have a moral obligation to act and to act swiftly.

The House already passed a Ukraine package with overwhelming bipartisan support. It should be no different here in the Senate. Both of our caucuses heard loud and clear from the Ukrainian Ambassador earlier this week that time is of the essence.

I urge my Republican colleagues to work with Democrats to get a funding package done as soon as possible—ASAP. Republicans shouldn't block this bill. There is no reason—no reason whatsoever—not to get Ukraine funding approved fast.

I also call on my colleagues to swiftly pass additional legislation to arm the Federal Government with the tools needed to liquidate assets seized from Russian oligarchs—yachts, mansions, private jets, art collections, and more. It should be a no-brainer to provide the tools necessary to go after crooked Russian oligarchs, but, nevertheless, House Republicans bewilderingly opposed adding these tools in the House package. The Senate should do better. Both parties should work quickly and decisively to get this done through regular order. This issue can certainly be—it should certainly be—a bipartisan issue.

As the war in Ukraine enters its third bloody month, we must leave no stone unturned in making Putin and his cronies pay a price and in helping the Ukrainian people. Their fight against Russian aggression is a struggle between democracy and authoritarianism itself, so there should be no question—no question—about which side America stands on.

Again, I urge my Republican colleagues not to block this legislation but to work with us to quickly get this passed through the Chamber. Everyone can have their own idea, but if everyone has their own idea, we will get nothing done. We have to come together on a bill that has gotten broad bipartisan support in the House and in the Senate.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on nominations, it has been a productive week on the Senate floor when it comes to nominations. Earlier this week, the Senate fi-

nally confirmed a highly qualified and historic nominee to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors: Lisa Cook.

Coming from humble beginnings in rural Georgia, where her family fought segregation, Ms. Cook will be the first Black woman to ever sit on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. She is a professor of economics at Michigan State, a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Advisory Board, and she served as a senior economist on President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers. She absolutely belongs on the Board, and I am glad she was finally confirmed.

Yesterday, we also confirmed Alvaro Bedoya as a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission, breaking a 2-to-2 deadlock that has kept the FTC from full strength for over a year.

Mr. Bedoya's nomination is fantastic news for the American people. The FTC will be empowered to fight against price gougers, market manipulators, and go after bad actors using anti-competitive practices to drive up prices. We have been urging the FTC, for instance, to look at market manipulation and price gouging when it comes to gasoline, and now they will have the ability to do so because the Republican Commissioners refuse to move forward, but now we have a majority of Democrats on that Commission.

This week, the Senate also confirmed another Fed nominee, Philip Jefferson, and secured Democratic majorities on important labor-focused Agencies, including the Federal Labor Relations Authority. Next week, we will also start the process to confirm more Democrats to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Finally, later today, the Senate will vote on Jerome Powell to serve another term as Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Few institutions are more important to help steer our economy in the right direction—and to fight inflation—than the Fed. Chairman Powell presided as Fed Chair during some of the most challenging moments in modern American history. I thank all of my colleagues—particularly Senator BROWN, chairman of our Banking Committee—who have worked to move forward with this important nomination.

U.S. INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT

Madam President, finally on USICA, today, our bipartisan jobs and competition bill will take another step forward when the conference committee holds its first public meeting.

The jobs and competition legislation is just what the doctor ordered to boost our economy, bring manufacturing jobs back home, and lower costs for American families. Many across the country want to see this bill done. A recent letter from over 240 State and local chambers of commerce called on Congress to act, citing its importance for critical technologies like semiconductors.

One economic analysis also found that enacting this bill would help add or preserve as many as 3 million jobs to

the U.S. economy—3 million jobs. And it could be more as new innovations and new markets unlock new opportunities yet unknown.

There is still a lot of work to do before we send this jobs bill to the President's desk, and not everyone is going to get what they want. But even so, today's first public meeting is a great step forward. The bill is the most worthy and important effort, one that will pay dividends for years to come.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for months, the brave people of Ukraine have been fighting valiantly in a war they did not ask for. Their defense of their homeland from the Russian invasion has already far surpassed the expectations of all the skeptics.

Ukraine is not asking anybody else to do their fighting for them. They ask only for the resources they need to defend themselves against this lawless aggression.

I strongly support the next package of lethal military assistance which the House has passed with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. I hope the Senate can reach an agreement to consider and pass this legislation today. The Ukrainians need it. We need to do it today.

Helping Ukraine is not an instance of mere philanthropy. It bears directly on America's national security and vital interests that Russia's naked aggression not succeed and carries significant costs. If Ukraine fails to repel Russian aggression, there is no question that the threat to America and European security will actually grow.

Our Nation's history is packed—packed—with painful reminders that America cannot wish away global problems that affect us and our allies simply by burying our head in the sand.

I applaud the strong Republican vote for this crucial assistance over in the House and urge my Senate colleagues on both sides to help us pass this urgent funding bill today.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, now on another matter, 2 years ago, the Democratic leader addressed a crowd on the steps of the Supreme Court and threatened Justices if they didn't rule the way he wanted. Now far-left crowds are surrounding Justices' private family homes. They want to use intimidation to influence the outcome in a pending case. It should be easy for leaders to condemn. All Americans should agree